



# CANBERRA REGION LANGUAGES FORUM UPDATE

February 2023

## UPCOMING EVENTS and ACTIVITIES

### 1. Languages at the Multicultural Festival in Civic

Hear many of the languages spoken in the ACT area and attend workshops and take part in competitions to find out more about them.

#### Ancient Coptic Calligraphy Workshop

Learn to write your name in this ancient alphabet on some papyrus just like an Egyptian scribe and you will be reviving ancient Egyptian culture.

- Friday 17 February 4pm
- Workshop space 1 - Glebe Park

#### Multilingual Story Walk and competition

Follow the colourful Adventures of Sinbad, find out more about the languages spoken in the ACT from the Multilingual Canberra boards. and win a cash prize in a free competition linking the languages in the story walk to the Canberra community.

- Saturday 18 February 10am-5pm
- Glebe park, near Workshop Tent 1

More details at: <https://actbilingual.weebly.com/events.html>

#### Tongan Languages Workshop

Teaching the Tongan Alphabet and singing along to its music. Learn some key phrases and more about Tongan language and culture.

- Saturday 18 February 11am
- Workshop space 1 - Glebe Park

#### Languages Showcase

- Sunday 19 February 10am-12 noon
- Garema Place Stage

Hear some of Canberra's many languages in performances from ACT Community Languages schools and poets from the Mother Tongue - Multilingual Poetry group

For more details about the above and other language-related events, search for them and terms like 'calligraphy' and 'choir' at <https://www.multiculturalfestival.com.au/festival-program>

### 2. International Mother language day Walk

The International Mother Language Movement in Canberra is celebrating the UN declared International Mother Languages Day (21 February) with its annual walk along the shores of Lake Burley Griffin.

- Sunday morning 26 February
- Start 10.30am: under the flags near the National Library.
- Walk over Kings Avenue Bridge, ending near the Police memorial at about 11.30am with a picnic and sausage sizzle.

Sing in your languages as you walk and carry banners, posters or dress traditionally to celebrate the languages that you speak, are learning, and/or are part of your cultural identity.

More details on their Facebook page, website <http://www.imlm21.org.au/>, or contact Ziaul at [imlm.21feb@gmail.com](mailto:imlm.21feb@gmail.com)

### **3. Mother Tongue - Multilingual Poetry**

First Open mic for 2023

- Monday 27 February 7pm-9pm (doors open at 6.30pm).
- Smiths Alternative, 76 Alinga Street, Canberra
- All welcome to come along and listen or share poetry in another language.
- Cost: \$10/\$5. Pay at the door or online through Smiths

The feature poet is Andrew Kwabena Moss. Of Anglo-Ghanaian heritage, a teacher and published writer, Andrew will draw on his work in Japanese and Asante Twi from three poetry collections being published later this month.

To share a poem in a language other than English, email [mothertonguemicro@gmail.com](mailto:mothertonguemicro@gmail.com) to sign up for the open mic. You will have 4 minutes to share the poem, plus any introduction or translation into English. All styles from traditional to contemporary slam poetry are welcome, and you can read your original poem, or a piece by another poet.

More details at: <https://www.facebook.com/events/910926963593626/?ref=newsfeed> or email [mothertonguemicro@gmail.com](mailto:mothertonguemicro@gmail.com)

### **4. ANU Language Teaching Forum**

The ANU Language Teaching Forum (LTF) provides a platform for language teachers and researchers in all areas of the ANU as well as teachers in mainstream and community language schools in the Canberra region to share language teaching experiences and reflections, research studies, and pedagogical practices.

Plans for this semester are to meet on Tuesdays, in a hybrid format, from 4.15-5pm on the following dates: Tuesday 28 February, 21 March, 18 April, 23 May (can be negotiated).

The organisers are currently calling for expressions of interest to present on a topic related to languages education. If you are interested in presenting, or would like to be added to the email list or find out more, please contact [Wesley.Lim@anu.edu.au](mailto:Wesley.Lim@anu.edu.au)

## **OTHER ACT NEWS**

### **5. New funding model for ACT Community Language schools yet to be announced.**

The Office for Multicultural Affairs (OMA) held a community consultation workshop for principals and representatives of Community Language Schools (CLS) on 21 January 2023. The aim was to provide background information on the increased funding now available and to seek feedback on proposals for a new funding model. Participants pointed out the challenges of a drastic change to how schools are supported so near the start of the 2023 academic year..

Details of the funding model for ACT Community Language schools for 2023 and beyond are yet to be announced

### **6. The Chief Minister's Reading Challenge (CMRC)**

This annual event promotes reading and literacy. All schools in the ACT are encouraged to participate, including community language schools. Registration opened on 6 February and is required by Friday 17 March. The challenge concludes on Friday 11 August 2023

There is no prescribed book list for the Challenge. Books can be novels, non-fiction, poetry and can be in a language other than English, including bilingual texts.

More information at [https://www.education.act.gov.au/public-school-life/additional-programs/chief\\_ministers\\_reading\\_challenge/how-to-meet-the-challenge](https://www.education.act.gov.au/public-school-life/additional-programs/chief_ministers_reading_challenge/how-to-meet-the-challenge) or email [CMRC@act.gov.au](mailto:CMRC@act.gov.au)

## 7. Language programs in the ACT area in 2023

The academic year is starting up, so it is an excellent time to think about developing your language skills!

For a glimpse of the many opportunities to learn and practice languages in the ACT region see:

Programs for adults: <https://actbilingual.weebly.com/other-language-programs.html>

Programs for children: <https://actbilingual.weebly.com/language-programs-for-children.html>

## 8. Canberra Academy of Languages

The Canberra Academy of Languages (CAL) is commencing the school year with a record 70+ students enrolled in senior secondary studies in six languages: French, German, Japanese, Korean, Spanish and Tamil. Staffed by six highly qualified teachers, CAL has announced that Beth McArthur, their Japanese teacher, has accepted the role of CAL Director of School, and that Orion Lethbridge is continuing in his role as Director of Studies.

For more information about CAL see <https://www.cal.act.edu.au/news.htm>

## NATIONAL NEWS

### 9. Focus on Languages in the National Cultural Policy

Actions outlined in this policy, 'Revive: a place for every story, a story for every place', a five-year plan to renew and revive Australia's arts, entertainment and cultural sector, include:

- Establishing a Community Language Schools Grants program "to encourage more young Australians to learn a second language, connecting them to the languages and cultures of our diverse multicultural society".
- Establishing a First Nations Languages Policy Partnership between First Nations representatives and Australian governments
- Supporting 60 primary schools around Australia to teach local First Nations languages and cultural knowledge
- Developing a National Action Plan that identifies priority areas to preserve and safeguard First Nations languages
- Continuing support for First Nations peoples to express, preserve and maintain their culture through languages and the arts under the Indigenous Languages and Arts program (ILA).

For more information about:

- National Cultural Policy, see <https://www.arts.gov.au/what-we-do/national-cultural-policy>
- The 2023-24 (ILA) Open Competitive Grant (applications close on 22 March) see [www.grants.gov.au](http://www.grants.gov.au), email [ila@arts.gov.au](mailto:ila@arts.gov.au) or call 1800 006 992.

## FEEDBACK AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUTURE UPDATES WELCOME

Details of previous Forum Updates are available at  
<https://canberralanguages.blogspot.com/>